CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
HMMM...
CLICK
CLICK
FREEZE
CLATTER
SHIRO-SAN, GOOD MORNING.
THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT...
YAWN
SORRY. DID I WAKE YOU?
I WAS TALKING TO MYSELF.
NO, YOU'RE GOOD
WERE YOU UP ALL NIGHT WORKING ON YOUR NOVEL (LOL)?
I'M BEING MOCKED FIRST THING IN THE MORNING? HOW LAVISH!

I FINALLY FELT INSPIRED.
HNNNG
BUT I GOT WRITER'S BLOCK AGAIN.
I'LL TAKE A BREAK.
FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS?
WOW, WHAT AN INNOCENT SMILE.
ANYWAY, YOU SURE DO LOOK SMART WHEN YOU'RE TYPING AT YOUR COMPUTER.
REALLY?
YEAH!

LIKE A WELL-TRAINED, PEDIGREED DOG.
YOU HAVE THE EYES OF A BREEDER!
I SEE EVERY-THING STILL LOOKS SHINY TO YOU.

AFTER ALL...

I SEE MY "GIRLFRIEND" FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
YEAH, I~
SHALL WE GO?
SENPAI!
CONGRATULATIONS.
WITH PEOPLE SAYING THINGS LIKE THIS...
YOU MAKE A GREAT COUPLE.
WHEN WILL THIS WORLD
EVER STOP SHINING?

CAREER & EDUCATION GOALS
YEAR 2 CLASS (__) NUMBER (__) NAME (_____)
1. CAREER & EDUCATION GOALS AFTER GRADUATION
(CIRCLE ONE)
1. CONTINUING EDUCATION 2. EMPLOYMENT 3. OTHER (__)
1. SPECIFIC SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT)
DEPARTMENT
REALITY
MAKE SURE TO TURN IT IN BY NEXT WEEK.
WHOOSH
THAT STOPPED SURPRISINGLY QUICKLY.
YEAH.
UGH.
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT ENTRANCE EXAMS.
MY FUTURE IS STILL UNCLEAR.
I SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IT, BUT...
USA!

RIGHT NOW...
BY THE GATE.
CHECK IT OUT.
JUST SEEING MY "GIRLFRIEND" NERVOUSLY WAIT FOR ME...
...MAKES MY WORLD START SHINING AGAIN.
I'M GOING HOME!
COULD I GET THAT IN PURIKURA SIZE.
!?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
WHUP

USA-KUN, IN THE FUTURE...
YOU'LL DEFINITELY GO INTO THE SCIENCES, RIGHT?
YEAH. FOR WORK...
I'D LIKE TO WORK WITH PEOPLE, BUT I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT MORE SPECIFICALLY THAN THAT.
I FEEL LIKE THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW.
WERE YOU THE SAME WAY?

I USED TO WANT TO BE A LIBRARIAN.
BUT IT'S HARD TO GET A JOB.
IT'S EVEN HARDER TO GET HIRED AS A RESEARCHER.
I'M THINKING ABOUT GETTING ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS I CAN
AND TRYING TO GET A JOB AS A CIVIL SERVANT.
YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS A LOT!
IT'S NORMAL.
COMPARED TO YOU, I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
I NEED TO LEARN TO BE MORE PRUDENT.

USA-KUN, IN THE FUTURE...
YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO'LL CROSS HIS BRIDGES AT HIS OWN PACE.
BECAUSE OF MY PERSONALITY...
I'M TOO SCARED TO CROSS A BRIDGE WITHOUT CHECKING IT FIRST,
OR I EXHAUST MYSELF WHILE CHECKING IT AND END UP NEVER CROSSING IT.
OR ESCAPE FROM REALITY BY READING BOOKS IN FRONT OF THE BRIDGE.
OR GET SO ENGROSSED IN A BOOK THAT YOU RUN INTO THE RAILING ON THE BRIDGE?
I'M JUST KIDDING!
じっ
GLARE

SMILE
IF YOU NOTICE ME DOING THAT,
LET ME KNOW, USA-KUN.
LIKE A TRAFFIC SAFETY LADY.
PFFFT

RATHER THAN GUIDING HER WITH FLAGS, I'D LIKE TO HOLD HER HAND.
AS LONG AS I THINK IDEALISTIC THOUGHTS LIKE THAT,
IN FACT, I'D LIKE TO HOLD HER HAND RIGHT NOW.
I'LL NEVER MEASURE UP TO SENPAI'S EVALUA-TION OF ME.
BUT IF SENPAI THINKS I CAN DO IT...

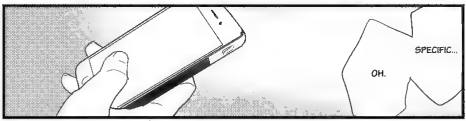
HE'S BEEN FIDDLING WITH HIS PHONE WITH A SERIOUS EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE FOR A WHILE.
...THEN I WANT TO BE THAT GUY.
I SHOULD GIVE THIS SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT.
HE'S PROBABLY SEARCHING FOR "HOW TO HOLD HANDS" AND "WHEN TO HAVE SEX FOR THE FIRST TIME."
I-I-I'M NOT!
GIVEN HOW USELESS YOU ARE AND HOW INCOMPREHENSIBLE RIT-CHAN'S TRAIN OF THOUGHT IS, NORMAL DOESN'T APPLY TO YOU TWO.
I TOLD YOU, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M DOING! IT'S ABOUT MY FUTURE!
QUIT TRYING TO SHOW OFF. GO DO IT IN YOUR ROOM.
THE SIGNAL SUCKS IN THERE.
YOUR FUTURE, HUH...
THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO EITHER.

FIRST I GOT SOME ROPE, AND—
IT'S MORE UNUSUAL FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE DECIDED WHAT THEY WANT TO DO AT YOUR AGE.
A LOT OF PEOPLE JUST END UP TRYING TO GET INTO COLLEGE.
SAYAKA, ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU DID?
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD GRADU-ATED.
OKAY, STORY TIME'S OVER.
WHAT? BUT MY LIFE STARED GETTING INTERESTING AFTER THAT.
HUNT-ING FOR MEN?
HOW RUDE. I ACTUALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
IT'S AMAZING HOW FIRM YOUR CON-VICTION IS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME UP WITH AN EXPRESS-SION AS CRUDE AS "HUNTING FOR MEN."
AND MAKE LOTS OF STRONG CONNEC-TIONS.
MY GOAL WAS TO GO TO A WOMEN'S COLLEGE THAT WAS POPULAR AMONG MEN AND HELD LOTS OF MIXERS,
TEE HEE

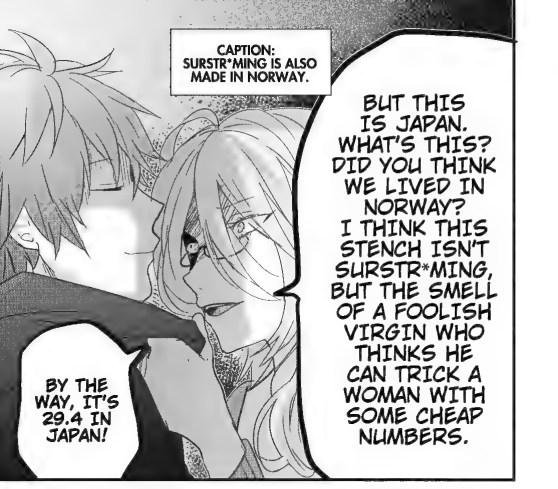
MAYUMI-SAN, YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T CHECK THE BRIDGE AT ALL.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S WHY MY BRIDGE IS SO WEAK?
NO.
STOP ENJOYING HOW THE FACE OF NATURAL-LOOKING BEAUTIFUL WOMAN... FOR SOMEONE APART FROM YOU TOUCH IT
STOP USING MY FACE TO SEE HOW MUCH FIDGINESS YOUR OWN SKIN HAS LOST
IN SOME WAYS, YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS CHECKS THE BRIDGE FIRST.
ACTUALLY, YOU PLASTER MORE ON TO MAKE IT EVEN STRONGER.
ALONG WITH YOUR FACE.
YOURS ISN'T A STONE BRIDGE,
MUCH LESS A ROPE BRIDGE.
WOMEN'S KARMA RIVER
LOVE WORLD GANDHARA
LOSER TOWN
IT'S A TIGHT-ROPE!
MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT'S FUN, LIKE I'M WATCHING A CIRCUS.
AND TO MAKE THINGS WORSE...
THIS WAY IS MORE EXCITING!
...YOU'RE IGNORING THE STONE BRIDGE.
IT'S THE SKIN OF AN OLD PERSON.
THIS FEELING LEFT ON MY FINGER TIP.

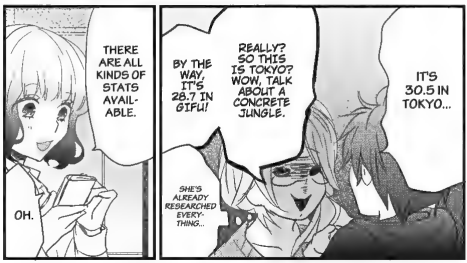
IT'S THRILLING, BUT YOU'LL MAKE IT TO SHORE ON YOUR OWN STRENGTH EVEN IF YOU FALL!
YOUR VITALITY, WHICH EMPOWERS YOU TO CRAWL ONTO LAND WHILE HURLING INSULTS, IS WHAT MAKES YOU ATTRACTIVE, MAYUMI-SAN!
WHAT THE HELL IS SHE SPEAKING ON?!
AND I DIDN'T COME UP ON THE OHMPHARA SIDE!
I LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU!
IT WAS PREFERABLE TO BE A STONE RATHER THAN CHANNEL SALTED SQUID!
I'LL PICKLE YOU IN THE SUN FROM TODAY!
MAYUMI-CHAN,
THAT'S ENOUGH.
TWITCH
TWITCH
SUMIKO-SAN, HE SECRETLY CONSENTED TO THIS.
YOUR FACE IS TERRIFYING.
SINCE YOU TURNED THIRTY, YOU'VE BEEN GETTING HYSTERICAL ALL THE TIME.
DON'T BRING UP MY AGE.
HMPH

I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
SHUT UP! I'M SICK OF BEING CALLED BEAUTIFUL AND SEXY!
BE MORE SPECIFIC WHEN YOU COMPLIMENT ME!
SHE'S RIGHT. YOU'RE DOING GREAT, MAYUMI-SAN.
YOU'LL BE FINE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH.
THESE DAYS THIRTY IS STILL YOUNG.


SPECIFIC...
OH.

USA...
THE AVERAGE MARRIAGE AGE IN NORWAY IS 31.8.
YOU STILL HAVE TIME!


CAPTION: SURSTR*MING IS ALSO MADE IN NORWAY.
BUT THIS IS JAPAN. WHAT'S THIS? DID YOU THINK WE LIVED IN NORWAY? I THINK THIS STENCH ISN'T SURSTR*MING, BUT THE SMELL OF A FOOLISH VIRGIN WHO THINKS HE CAN TRICK A WOMAN WITH SOME CHEAP NUMBERS.
BY THE WAY, IT'S 29.4 IN JAPAN!


THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF STATS AVAIL-ABLE.
OH.
BY THE WAY, IT'S 28.7 IN GIFU!
REALLY? SO THIS IS TOKYO? WOW, TALK ABOUT A CONCRETE JUNGLE.
SHE'S ALREADY RESEARCHED EVERY-THING...
IT'S 30.5 IN TOKYO...

I'LL START BY MAKING MANAMI GIVE UP ON MARRIAGE.
YOU CAN'T INCREASE YOUR CHANCES BY GETTING RID OF SIX OTHER PEOPLE.
APPARENTLY A 30-YEAR-OLD UNMARRIED WOMAN HAS A 35.5% CHANCE OF GETTING MARRIED WITHIN FIVE YEARS!
THAT'S ABOUT THREE TO FOUR PEOPLE OUT OF TEN.
BY THE WAY, FOR EACH YEAR YOU GET OLDER, YOUR CHANCES DECREASE DRAMATICALLY.
AUGH!
I'LL HAVE TO TRY HARDER
AND GET TEN PEOPLE TO GIVE UP.
YOUR MATH DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
INSTEAD OF TRYING TO BRING OTHER PEOPLE DOWN,
WHY DON'T YOU ACTUALLY TRY LOOKING FOR A PARTNER?

UGH...
WEREN'T YOU POPULAR AT THE FOREST MIXER?
BEFORE YOUR TRUE COLORS CAME OUT.
YOU COULD SIGN UP ON WEBSITES AND GO TO LOTS OF PARTIES.
DON'T TELL ME
YOU HAVE TO NATURALLY MEET SOMEONE WHO YOU SHARE A SPARK WITH.
I THINK...
YOU SHOULD GIVE UP ON THAT.
YOU CAN'T COUNT ON INTUITION OR LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.
NOT IN MAYUMI-SAN'S CASE, ANYWAY.
RAGE

THAT'S HARDLY CONVINCING COMING FROM YOU!
YOU WERE THROBBING AT FIRST SIGHT WITH RIT-CHAN!
I...
WELL, I...
ISN'T THAT THE WRONG VERB?
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT...
ACCORDING TO YOUR LOGIC, IT'S WRONG FOR YOU AND RIT-CHAN TO BE TOGETHER!
IT'S NOT!
BESIDES, WE REACHED ZERO AT ONE POINT BECAUSE OF THE BEATINGS AND HER UNFRIENDLINESS!
RAGE
OH!
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S UNRELIABLE.
AT FIRST...
I DIDN'T FEEL
AAANYTHING AT ALL.

I DIDN'T LIKE BEING AROUND BOYS BACK THEN.
I WASN'T INTER-ESTED.
I KNOW.
GLOOM
GASP
はっ
しーん
NOT EVEN A SINGLE ONE...
NOT A SINGLE ONE.
NOT EVEN A SINGLE THROB?

UM.
...AM.
CLENCH
I REALLY...
NOW,
...

I'M REALLY
THROBBING
FOR YOU NOW.
WHISTLE
ふんでこった
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
IT TURNED ME INTO A GODDESS OF BEALITY!
USA-KUN'S SHINY VISION IS AT MAXIMUM INTENSITY!
I ONLY SAID THAT BECAUSE
I MADE THINGS WORSE WITH MY AWKWARD-NESS.
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
WHAT?
RIT-CHAN, HOW BOLD OF YOU.
RING
RING
OH, IT'S THE PHONE.
DASH
だっ
OH, SHE RAN AWAY.
I'LL ANSWER IT!

BUT MAYBE I WAS TOO HONEST.
DID I REPEL HIM?
I SHOULD ASK HAYASHI-SAN LATER.
DON'T!
RING RING RING
HELLO, THIS IS THE KAWAI COMPLEX.
IIJIMA... ISN'T THAT HIS CLASSMATE?
OF THE FOUR GREAT PERVERTED CIVILIZATIONS.
DIDN'T HE CALL BEFORE?
MAYBE THEY'VE DUG UP A FALLEN CIVILIZATION...
SENPAI YOU'RE SO MEAN.
I THINK IT SHOULD STAY BURIED.
WHAT?
THE SURPRISE MADE MY EMBARRASSMENT DISAPPEAR.
SHIRO-SAN, PHONE.
IT'S FROM IIJIMA-SAN.
ME?
IS SHIRO-SENSEI AVAILABLE?
THIS IS IIJIMA.

MAYU-CHAN, WHY DON'T YOU TRY
BROADENING YOUR SCOPE, TOO?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR JUNIOR WHO LOOKS LIKE USA-KUN?
UGH...
HE STARTED DATING ANOTHER ONE OF MY JUNIORS BEFORE I KNEW IT.
RIT-CHAN DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING BEFORE,
BUT LOOK AT HER NOW.
IT'S AMAZING HOW PEOPLE CAN CHANGE TOGETHER.
...

RRRGH...
YOU SHOULD'VE GONE FOR IT WHEN HE WAS INTO YOU.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE WEIRDLY PARTICULAR ABOUT HIS APPEAR-ANCE.
WHAT A WASTE.
NEXT TIME!
THE NEXT TIME A MAN APPROACHES ME, I'LL ACCEPT HIM INSTEAD OF BEING TOO PICKY ABOUT IT!
OKAY, FINE!
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF MAN HE IS!
NO, WAIT. YOU SHOULD BE A LITTLE CHOOSY.
OH,
ARE YOU DONE WITH THE PHONE?
MAYUMI-CHAN, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
UM...
ARE YOU GUYS DOING ANYTHING NEXT WEEKEND?
YEAH...
?
WE'RE FREE.

APPARENTLY, HE'S COMING HERE NEXT WEEKEND.
HE SAID HE WANTED TO STOP BY HERE.
SINCE I TOLD HIM ABOUT YOU GUYS...
HE SAID HE WANTED TO MEET YOU ALL, BUT MAYUMI-SAN ESPECIALLY.
NO!!
IS THIS A SIGN...!

THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOUR GREAT PERVERTED CIVILIZATIONS...
IIJIMA-KUN MAKES AN APPEARANCE?!